

## What about services beyond the forensic medical exam?

You may be billed per the provider's standard billing procedures for any services beyond the forensic medical exam. However, you may be eligible to seek reimbursement for those costs from the Crime Victims Reparations Board.

For information regarding what expenses are covered, other specifics and to apply for reimbursement from the Crime Victims Reparations Board, you can visit their website at [www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp](http://www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp) or call their office directly at (888) 6-VICTIM (842846).

**Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals**

628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-9500 - press option 7

## A Survivor's Guide



**A Survivor's Guide**  
to Sexual Assault Medical Claims

## **A Survivor's Guide to Sexual Assault Medical Claims**

Louisiana law prohibits health care providers from directly billing victims of sexually oriented crimes for the performance of a forensic medical exam and any related services required to perform the exam. If you receive a bill for the performance of a forensic medical exam or believe that you were improperly charged for care, please call the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals at (225) 342-9500 and press 7 when prompted.

Remember, you do not have to go through this alone. Consider talking to a friend or utilizing the 24-hour National Sexual Assault Hotline below. The Hotline can connect you with support in your area.

**National Sexual Assault Hotline  
(800) 656-4673**

## **Louisiana Sexual Assault Survivors' Guiding Principles**

1. You have the right to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.
2. You have access to a free forensic medical exam whether or not you decide to report your assault to law enforcement.
3. You must be informed by the provider of any and all examinations, procedures and treatments before you have to make a decision about them.
4. You may have an advocate present for any part of your exam, including when being interviewed by law enforcement if you choose to report your assault.
5. Your identity will remain confidential from the public.

## **Billing Procedures**

Louisiana law prohibits a hospital or healthcare provider from directly billing you for the performance of a forensic medical exam or related services. Those services include:

- ▶ services directly related to the forensic medical exam, whether they are provided by a forensic examiner or by a hospital or health care facility;
- ▶ scope procedures directly related to the forensic medical exam;
- ▶ laboratory testing and screenings directly related to the forensic medical exam; and
- ▶ any medication provided during the forensic medical exam.

## **How does my bill get paid?**

A health care provider may submit a claim for payment in any of the ways outlined below.

1. With your consent, the provider may submit a claim to your health insurance company.
  - Louisiana law requires your insurer to waive any applicable deductible, co-insurance or co-pay.
  - In addition, your insurance company will only send an explanation of benefits to an address of your own choosing. You may also choose that no explanation of benefits be generated at all.
2. The provider may also submit a claim to Medicaid, Medicare or Tricare if you are enrolled in one of these programs.
3. Finally, the provider may submit a claim to the Crime Victims Reparations Board directly.

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